

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

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DRAFTED BY EA/IMS:PCGILL:CCH

APPROVED BY EA/IMS:JERROLD M. DION

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, MY, ID, RP

SUBJECT: REPORTED PROPOSAL FOR MALAYSIAN BASE IN NATUNAS

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 2596

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF REPORT ON SUBJECT PROPOSAL AS
RECEIVED BY AP HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK:

QUOTE: MALAYSIA IS EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITIES OF ESTAB-
LISHING A SURVEILLANCE BASE, TO CHECK GUN RUNNERS IN THE
INDONESIAN ISLAND OF NATUNA IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA, WITH
THE COOPERATION OF INDONESIA, MALAYSIAN GOVT SOURCES SAID
SUNDAY.

THE SOURCES SAID INDICATIONS FROM INDONESIA WERE THAT
INDONESIA WILL BE AGREEABLE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH
A BASE.

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IT WAS NOT YET CLEAR WHETHER THE PHILIPPINES WILL BE ASKED TO JOIN IN THIS PLAN.

THE MALAYSIAN SOURCES SAID MALAYSIA FELT THAT WITH THE END OF THE INDOCHINA WAR, GUN RUNNERS MIGHT TRY TO BRING

IN SURPLUS ARMS FROM THE AREA TO GUERRILLAS IN INDONESIA, MALAYSIA AND PHILIPPINES.

THE SURVEILLANCE BASE WILL BE ABLE TO KEEP TRACK OF MOVEMENT OF VESSELS IN THE AREA WITH RADAR AND OTHER EQUIPMENT TO HELP TRACK DOWN ANY POSSIBLE GUN RUNNERS.

THE SOURCES SAID THE IDEA IS IN THE PRELIMINARY STAGE AND DETAILS HAVE YET TO BE WORKED OUT. THE SOURCES SAID THAT INDONESIA WILL STILL HAVE SOVEREIGNTY OVER NATUNA, AND NATUNA WILL STILL BELONG TO INDONESIA.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BASE WOULD NOT CHANGE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE ISLAND. END QUOTE.

2. ACCORDING AP, REPORT WAS FILED IN KUALA LUMPUR MAY 11, BUT NEVER USED BY AP. KISSINGER

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